

Meeting Minutes

February 19, 2014

Members in Attendance: Molly Flueckiger, Heidi Hample, Rachel Buonopane, Maureen St. Hilaire, Susan James

Members Absent: Michael Rademacher, John Thompson, Kerrie Fallon

Others Present: Jack Jones/ADA Coordinator, Janice Dallas, Burt Pusch (new pending COD member), Danny van Leeuwen (Arlington resident, Advocates)

Meeting began at 4:05 pm

1. Welcome and Introduction

2. Administrative Business

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from 1/22/14 as amended

3. ADA Coordinator Report

- Marie Krepelka, Board Administrator for the Board of Selectmen requesting info and recommendations regarding the accessible icon project. The Board of Selectmen received letters from two young women with disabilities advocating for this project. This symbol, suggested as the new accessible icon for parking spaces, has been adopted by various towns and private lots painted on the ground. The symbol displays a “more active” looking figure. Reportedly the Massachusetts Access Board is considering changing officially to this new symbol. It has not yet been adopted officially and cannot be used for signs (as they need to be standardized). However, there are no formal regulations of what is painted on the ground.
- *Discussion amongst group to possibly consider for a warrant article or bylaw proposal*
- *Rachel to follow up with Jeff Lafata, of Triangle/Epic regarding getting more information on this project and how it works*
- *Rachel, Maureen and Heidi to form a subcommittee*
- Marie Bell, town resident called with changes of programs at the (old) Gibbs School in East Arlington. The Kelliher Center, one of the programs, is going to be changed to a smaller, non-accessible room. Concerned regarding access for town members with disabilities that participate in these programs. Carol Kolowski, of the planning department, to follow up to prevent this from happening. ADA coordinator awaiting status report.
- *Maureen to call director of the Kelliher Center to also follow up.*

- Gloria Turkall, secretary of the finance committee, requesting information regarding approval of funds. Commission has been approved for \$3000. If we would like to request more, we would need to speak to finance committee. Discussion of the items we can spend money on as a commission.
- ***Will develop a strategic plan for growth as a commission.***
- Paula Gannon expresses concerns regarding lack of accessible parking @ 22 Mill St. There are two labeled accessible spots in the lot behind the building, though neither are van accessible. There are two labeled accessible spots across the street in their private lot. There have been various complaints about this lot, in the past few years. This building is primarily used for medical use. As this is a private lot, it is considered under Title III.
- ***Jack to speak with MOD for assistance regarding ADA compliance.***
- MaryAnn Sullivan from the Selectmen's Office, requesting info regarding outdoor seating. As permits for outdoor seating are issued through the Selectmen's office.
- Christine Borgiorno, Director of Health and Human Services, requesting information and advice regarding renovations of Robbins Carriage House.
- ***Molly to follow up regarding this request.***
- Nina Fischer was contacted by Jack regarding approval of \$250 scholarship. She is requesting a written endorsement from the commission.

4. 2014 Planning and Goals

- Review Project List
 - a. Town Projects**
 - b. ADA Coordinators Projects**
 - c. Commission on Disability Projects**
 - d. Community Concerns**
- set up as a working document for the Commission to better track previous, ongoing and future projects
- suggestion of using a similar format for ADA coordinators report, to keep a running tally of concerns including follow up and resolution
- Town Warrant- town elections April 5th
- Review of Article 9- Outdoor Seating
- Commission Voted to support seating located closest to the curb, allowing a clear path adjacent to the building- as best practice supported by Commission on Disability
- Letter to Selectmen's office regarding Heights accessible parking. Rachel drafted a letter and received feedback at today's meeting and revisions to me made. Commission voted for this letter to be submitted to Selectmen's office.
- ***Rachel to make revisions and send to Jack to forward to Selectmen.***

- Snow removal
- Concerns of snow in front of the Unitarian Universalist Church (center of town). After one of the snow storms noted to have 2-3 inches of ice on sidewalk. Area of high traffic and concern for public safety. Heidi reports that she called the church with concerns and it was fixed the next day.
- Discussion of snow removal policies in surrounding towns, with very clear and thorough laws. Can we improve the laws and enforcement in Arlington? Discussion of developing committee regarding various departments and commissions to be involved such as police, fire and DPW.

5. Other Business

- Article in Advocate regarding True Story Theatre performed at the Regent Theatre. Focus on true life stories regarding housing, accessibility and how we live.
- *Will work to develop timeline of project due dates for town issues so that we can plan meetings in advance. (Town warrants, Commission Goals, Report to town meeting, finance requests)*

Meeting adjourned 6:10 pm

Next Meeting set March 19, 2014